GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1708
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008
OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the data collected from 562 out of 584 districts has revealed that there is a decline in the number of out of school children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether more girl children are now going to school;

(d) whether the enrolment of SC and ST children in the schools is still very less;

(e) if so, whether the Government has considered any survey report in this regards;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and (g) the steps the Government proposes to take to improve the enrolment of children in the schools particularly, children from SC/ST communities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) to (g) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has made considerable progress in enhancing access to elementary education. The number of out of school children has declined from 4.4 crore in 2001 to 75.97 lakh as on March, 2007 in 6-14 age group.

The enrolment of girls, SC and ST children has increased at the elementary level of education. As per Selected Educational statistics 2004-05 gross enrolment ratios for girls, SC, ST and all students in the elementary stage in the year 2004-05 were 89.9%, 98.8%, 102.4% and 93.5% respectively.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides for interalia, strengthening of school infrastructure, more access to schools, certain educational incentives, additional support through National Programme of Education of Girls at Elementary Level and residential facilities at upper primary level under Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme. Further, to target SC and ST children, interventions, inter-alia, free textbooks, remedial teaching and innovation are provided. The Mid Day Meal Scheme provides for cooked meals to school children, helping in improving retention.